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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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12 May 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Soviet Bloc Division

SUBJECT: Briefing of Mr. Orr Kelly
on Soviet Emigres

1. On 11 May, from 1400 to 1545, the undersigned briefed Mr. Orr Kelly, a reporter from the Washington Evening Star, on Soviet emigres, their nature and activities, and on operations of the Soviet intelligence services directed against them. This meeting was held at the request of the DDCI and took place in the offices of [] and [] both of whom sat in on the briefing. At [] request I was introduced in alias as []

2. [] laid down the ground-rules of the briefing to Mr. Kelly, who agreed to abide by them. [] emphasized that no classified material would be discussed with him and that there could be no attribution of the material used by Kelly to the Agency or to the U. S. Government. Also, the Heine case would not be discussed. The briefing was to be for the purpose of providing background on emigres to Mr. Kelly.

3. Since Kelly was not well enough informed on emigres to ask questions immediately, the undersigned started from the beginning, defining what the term emigre meant, describing the successive waves of emigres from what is now the Soviet Union, their motivation -- original and subsequent -- and other of their attributes. I discussed the Soviet regime's preoccupation with the emigre question beginning with the end of the Civil War and the evacuation of the White armies and other political dissidents. I described the political fractionalization of the emigration, its nationality aspects and various kinds of political and other activities carried on by the emigration. Kelly asked many questions about the composition, modus operandi and operations of the Soviet intelligence services in connection with their preoccupation with emigre affairs.

4. For background on the period between the World Wars I loaned Kelly a copy of The Conspirators by Geoffrey Bailey. With regard to the post-war period I described the Khokhlov and Stashinskiy cases, both of which were widely publicized, and gave Kelly a copy of Life paper []

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story on Stashinskiy.

5. Mr. Kelly asked many questions in the course of the briefing, most of which were appropriate, and we tried to answer them helpfully and rather completely -- hence the length of the briefing. However, when he asked whether CIA runs emigre operations, [] stated that this question was operational in nature and would not be answered. We did say, however, that it was the Agency's business to follow emigre affairs to some extent as a result of our intelligence gathering responsibility and because the Agency has a counterespionage function on behalf of the U. S. Government relative to events abroad. Kelly asked about RIS operations involving emigres in the U. S., and in reply it was stated that internal subversion falls within the jurisdiction of the FBI, with which the Agency cooperates on all appropriate cases.

6. Mr. Kelly asked whether RIS agents among the emigres were prosecuted for their activities. (I had described RIS counterintelligence and positive intelligence operations carried on through or against emigres.) The reply was that violation of the laws of the country involved was the key issue. A local law had to be broken before prosecution could even be considered. In this context the seriousness of the Stashinskiy and Khokhlov cases was mentioned. In cases where the lives of their own leaders were involved, the emigres had to find ways to protect themselves against penetration by the RIS. This led to an explanation of "legal" and "illegal" RIS operations. Specific, well-publicized cases were mentioned.

7. The briefing was rather exhaustive in its coverage. Kelly's questions were those of an intelligent but relatively uninformed person. He was pleasant and observed the rules laid down. He seemed grateful for the Agency's cooperation. There was no mention made of clearing his story with the Agency, and we do not know how much of the material he will use or how he will use it. At the end of the interview the undersigned again mentioned that Kelly had come into possession of rather authoritative information, though overtly available, and he should seriously consider attribution in the event that he is asked about his sources. The emigration and overt literature were discussed as possibilities in this regard.

[SB/S/CA]